

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (canceled)

1 **Claim 2 (currently amended):** A camera according to
2 claim [[1]]8,

3 ~~wherein the optical filter includes a color filter and~~
4 ~~a black-and-white filter, one of the first optical filter~~
5 ~~and the second optical filter is a color filter and the~~
6 ~~other is a black-and-white filter, and~~

7 wherein the ~~optical~~color filter is switched ~~into the~~
8 ~~color filter~~ to obtain a color image during the day with a
9 high image signal level, and the ~~optical filter~~black-and-
10 white filter is switched ~~into the black-and-white filter to~~
11 obtain a black-and-white image at night with a low image
12 signal level.

1 **Claim 3 (currently amended):** A camera according to
2 claim [[1]]8 or 2, further comprising

3 detecting means which detects a level of the image
4 signal output from the image pick-up element,

5 wherein the first optical filter and the second
6 optical filter are [[is]] automatically switched depending

7 on the signal level thus detected.

1 **Claim 4 (currently amended):** A method of switching
2 [[an]] optical filters of a camera, said method comprising
3 the steps of:

4 forming an image on an image pick-up element through
5 a lens provided on a camera body;

6 converting the image into an electrical signal through
7 the image pick-up element, thereby obtaining an image
8 signal;

9 detecting a level of the image signal output from the
10 image pick-up element by detecting means; and

11 automatically switching ~~the~~between a first optical
12 filter and a second optical filter through optical filter
13 switching means provided on a front surface of the image
14 pick-up element depending on the signal level detected by
15 the detecting means.

1 **Claim 5 (currently amended):** A method of switching
2 [[an]] optical filters of a camera according to claim 4,

3 ~~wherein the optical filter is constituted by a color~~
4 ~~filter and a black-and-white filter,~~one of the first
5 optical filter and the second optical filter is a color
6 filter and the other is a black-and-white filter, and

7 wherein the ~~optical~~color filter is switched ~~into the~~
8 ~~color filter~~ to obtain a color image during the day with a

9 high image signal level, and the ~~optical filter is switched~~
10 ~~into the~~ black-and-white filter is switched to obtain a
11 black-and-white image at night with a low image signal
12 level.

1 **Claim 6 (currently amended):** A method of switching an
2 optical filter of a camera according to claim 5, further
3 comprising steps of:

4 ~~wherein character information indicating the switching~~
5 ~~is output through display means and is displayed together~~
6 ~~with an image on a monitor when the optical filter is~~
7 ~~switched from the color filter into the black-and-white~~
8 ~~filter~~when the first optical filter is switched into the
9 second optical filter or the second optical filter is
10 switched into the first optical filter, outputting
11 character information indicating the switching, from
12 display means to a monitor; and

13 displaying the character information together with an
14 image shot by the camera, on a screen of the monitor.

1 **Claim 7 (original):** A method of switching ~~[[an]]~~
2 optical filters of a camera, according to claim 6,

3 wherein character information ~~about the~~ indicating
4 that a black-and-white image is displayed on the screen of
5 the monitor, when ~~[[an]]~~ said image ~~pick-up environment in~~
6 ~~which the~~ shot by the camera body ~~picks up an image is~~

7 ~~detected by a sensor and a color image~~ is automatically
8 switched ~~into~~from a color image to a black-and-white image
9 after detecting an image pick-up environment.

1 **Claim 8 (new):** A camera comprising:
2 a lens provided on a camera body;
3 an image pick-up element for converting an image is
4 provided by the lens into an electrical image signal;
5 a first optical filter;
6 a second optical filter; and
7 optical filter switching mechanism for selectively
8 positioning one of the first optical filter and the second
9 optical filter in front of the image pick-up element based
10 on a level of the image signal.